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FURMAN
WILDMAN

TRANSFORMERS FORMERS

THE WAR WITHIN



TRANSFORMERS

THE WAR WITHIN

THE DARK AGES

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PREVIOUSLY IN

TRANSFORMERS: THE WAR WITHIN...

With **OPTIMUS PRIME** and **MEGATRON** missing, presumed dead, the civil war on **CYBERTRON** degenerates into a series of frantic border conflict, with multiple factions bidding to consolidate or expand their home territory. Into this melting pot comes **The Fallen**, an ancient member of the **TRANSFORMERS** with dark designs on the planet. He recruits **BLUDGEON**, **MINDWIPE** and **BUGLY**, his plan to isolate and capture key individuals such as **GRIMLOCK**. At the very heart of **CYBERTRON**, **The Fallen** prepares...

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"TRANSFORMERS: War Within, 'The Dark Ages', Issue 2, Vol. 2, November 2003. First Printing. Published by Dreamwave Productions, 11 Albion Parkway, Suite 200, Markham, Ontario L3R 9T5, Canada. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. (c) 2003 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, or institutions with those of the living or dead is unintentional and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be printed without the permission of the respective owners. Printed in Canada.

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CYBERTRON, WITHIN:

I AM
SATISFIED.

THE WELL OF
ALL SPARKS:

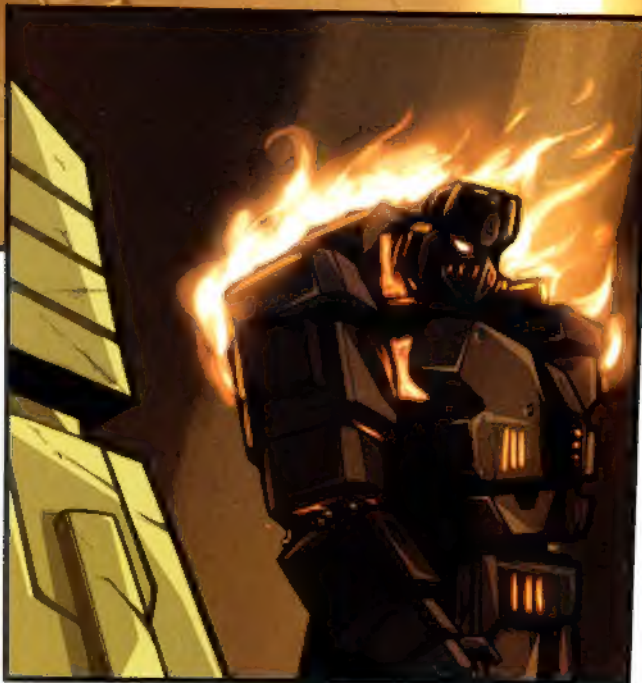
PREPARATIONS
FOR THE UNBINDING
ARE SUITABLY
ADVANCED.

YOU HAVE
PERFORMED
YOUR DUTIES
ADMIRABLY.

WELL GEE,
THANKS.

NOT THAT WE DON'T
APPRECIATE ALL THIS
GUSHING PRAISE, BUT,
Y'KNOW, WE'D PREFER
SOME MORE *TANGIBLE*
REWARD.

LIKE THIS *DARK*
POWER YOU KEEP
PROMISING.



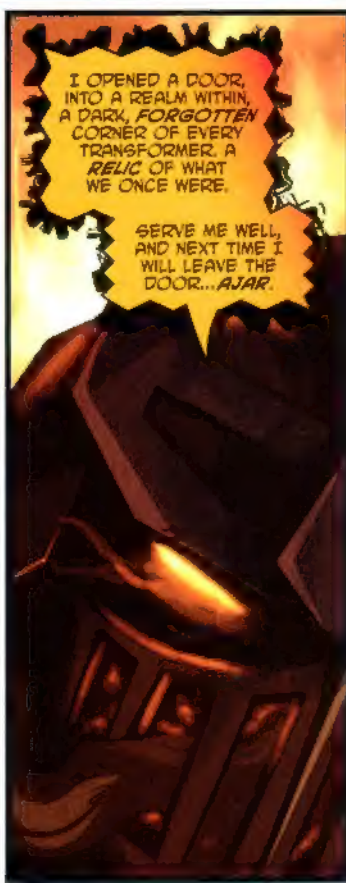




HHWW...

WH-WHAT...

...DID YOU
DO TO ME?



I OPENED A DOOR,
INTO A REALM WITHIN,
A DARK, *FORGOTTEN*
CORNER OF EVERY
TRANSFORMER. A
RELIC OF WHAT
WE ONCE WERE.

SERVE ME WELL,
AND NEXT TIME I
WILL LEAVE THE
DOOR... *AJAR*.



Y'KNOW... ALL
OF A SUDDEN I
FEEL *INSPIRED*.
MINDWIPE,
BUGLY--

--LET'S
GO TO
WORK!



HE'S HERE.

INDUSTRIAL QUADRANT EAST,
THE TAGAN HEIGHTS:

WHOEVER
CONTROLS THE HEIGHTS
CONTROLS OVER FORTY
PERCENT OF CYBERTRON'S
MANUFACTURING
POTENTIAL.

IF THAT GETS TURNED
TO FULL SCALE WEAPONS
PRODUCTION, IT'LL TIP THE
BALANCE OF POWER
CATASTROPHICALLY.

YOU SURE,
SPRINGER?

HE'S HERE
ALRIGHT!



TRICK IS, TO
FIND HIM... BEFORE
HE FINDS US.

TOPSPIN, TWIN TWIST,
WHIRL, ROADBUSTER,
BROADSIDE-FAN OUT,
SEARCH PATTERN THETA.
SANDSTORM, YOU'RE
WITH ME.



SO FAR, WE'VE MANAGED
TO CONTAIN HIM AND HIS
ULTRACONS, KEEP THEM
PUSHED BACK INSIDE
POLYHEX'S BORDERS.
BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME...



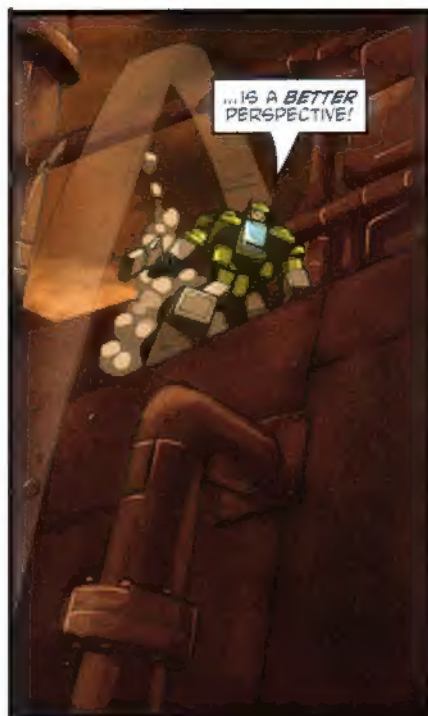
... HE'S READY
TO PUSH *BACK*!



EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT, IF
SOMEHOW HE GOT *PAST*
OUR BORDER PATROLS, WE
COULD SEARCH FOR *DAYS*
AND FIND NO TRACE.

MAYBE
YOU'RE RIGHT.

MAYBE
WHAT WE
NEED...



-UH-
-NTT...






...AND IT
IS BIG!

DEVASTATOR!



DEVASTATOR



IACON, THE FORMER
HIGH COUNCIL PAVILIONS

THAT'S
WHAT WE HEARD,
HOTSPOT

THIS CHANGES
EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE SURE?

HEY, SOMEONE TOLD
SOMEONE WHO TOLD
SOMEONE ELSE YOU
KNOW HOW IT GOES

REAL
QUESTION
S...

...CAN WE
AFFORD *NOT*
TO BELIEVE TO?



NO

IF THE
CONSTRUCTICONS
HAVE PICKED A SIDE,
WE HAVE TO *ACT*.

RIGHT NOW, WE
COMBINERS HAVE A
DEGREE OF AUTONOMY
WE'RE NO LONGER PART
OF A RESPONSE TO
SOME ESCALATING
ARMS RACE

WHETHER SIGNED UP
AS INDIVIDUALS, LIKE
MOTORMASTER, OR
UNALLIED AS A GROUP
WE'RE JUST US

IF THE
ULTRACONS HAVE
DEVASTATOR, HOW
LONG BEFORE THE
PREDACONS WANT
BRUTICUS, THE
DECEPTICONS
MENASOR?

AND THEN? **SURELY** THE
LIGHTNING STRIKE COALITION
WILL WANT **SUPERION**, THE
AUTOBOT'S **DEFENSOR**

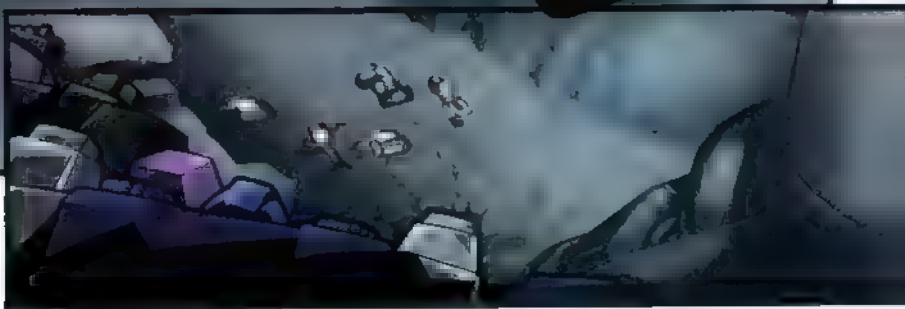


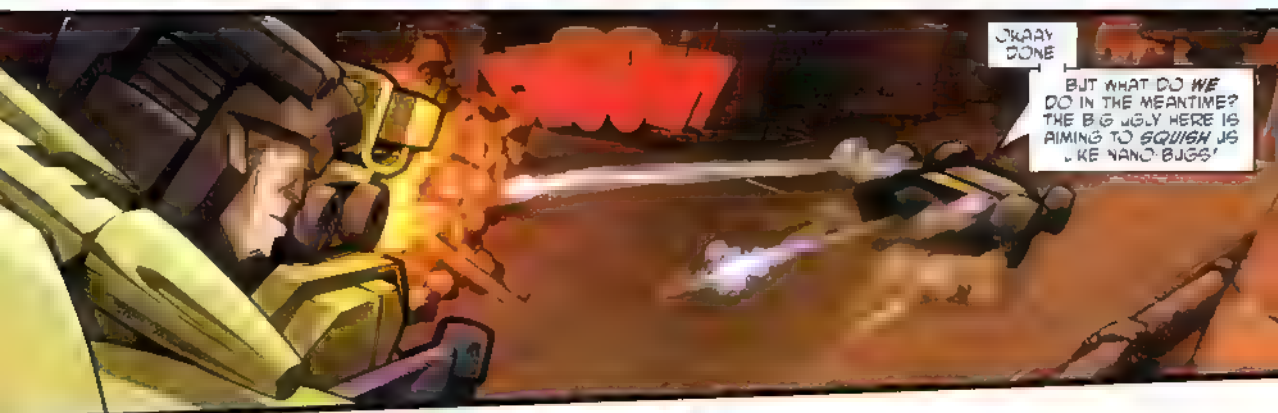
AND WE'LL BE
RIGHT **BACK** WHERE
WE STARTED

UNLESS.

WE STOP THIS
HERE, NOW **BLADES**,
FIRST AID, **GROOVE**,
STREETSIDE

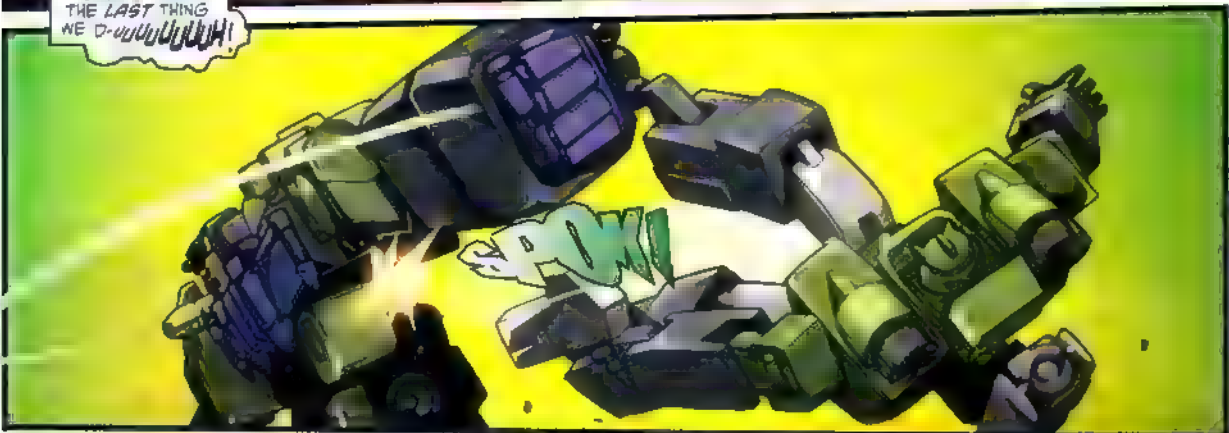
ROLL OUT!







EVEN IF IT'S
THE LAST THING
WE D-UUUUUUH!



M HUR BOUNCING
BUT LEARN TO FLY
TEACH YOU TOO

YOU REALLY *WERE* FIRST
OFF THE PRODUCTION
LINE, WEREN'T YOU? SIX
OF THE SHARPEST M NDS
ON CYBERTRON *MUSHED*
INTO 'DEVASTATOR SMASH'

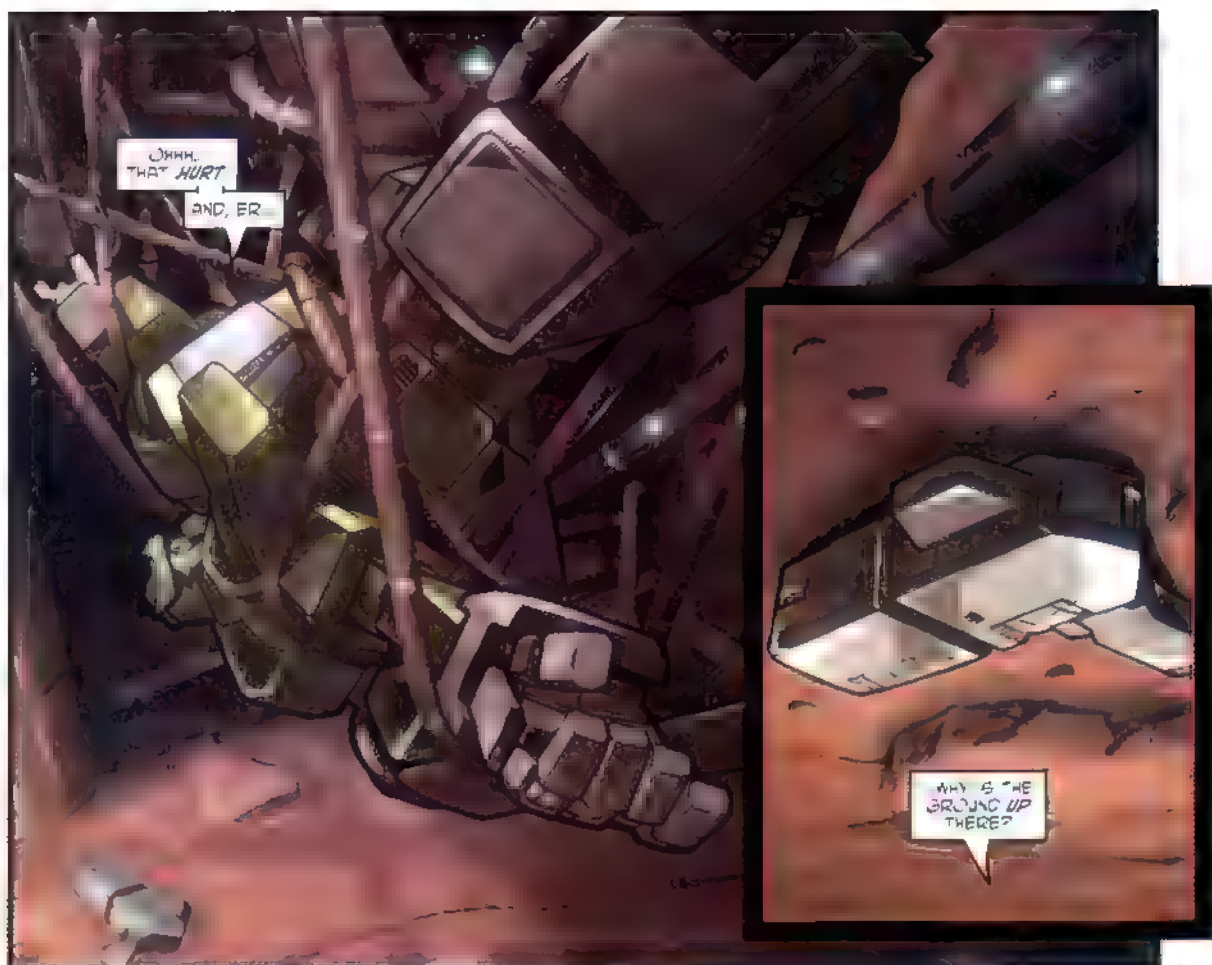
HEY


THAT'S
PROGRESS
FOR NOW!

GUYS

WHAT PART
OF CLEAR THE
AREA DID NOT
COMPUTE?
I TOLD-

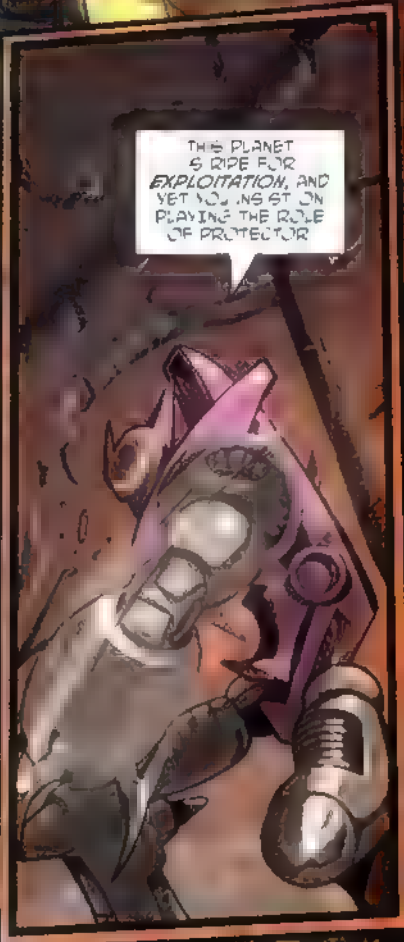
AM, HEY WHO
AM I KIDDING?
WRECK AND
RULE!



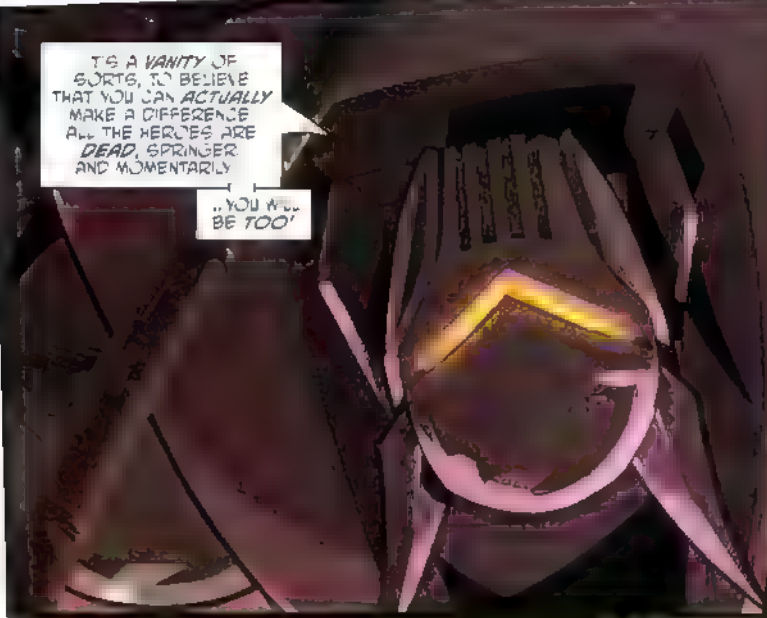


I HAVE YOU
JUST WHERE
I WANT YOU!

RATBAT!

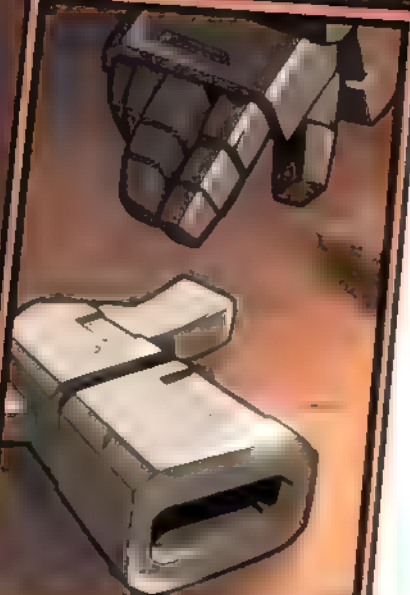


THIS PLANET
IS RIFE FOR
EXPLOITATION, AND
YET YOU INSIST ON
PLAYING THE ROLE
OF PROTECTOR



IT'S A VANITY OF
SORTS, TO BELIEVE
THAT YOU CAN ACTUALLY
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
ALL THE HEROES ARE
DEAD, SPRINGER
AND MOMENTARILY

.. YOU WILL
BE TOO!



WITHIN



WELL?

WE'RE IN *BUSINESS*.
THE *TARGET* AND HIS
FELLOW SAPS WENT
FOR IT LIKE DRONES
TO A SMELTING POOL.

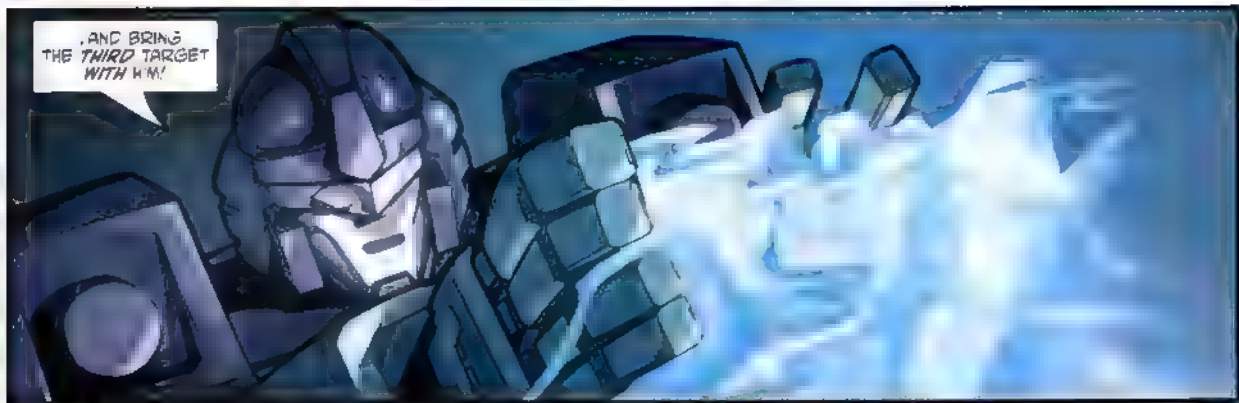
YOU?

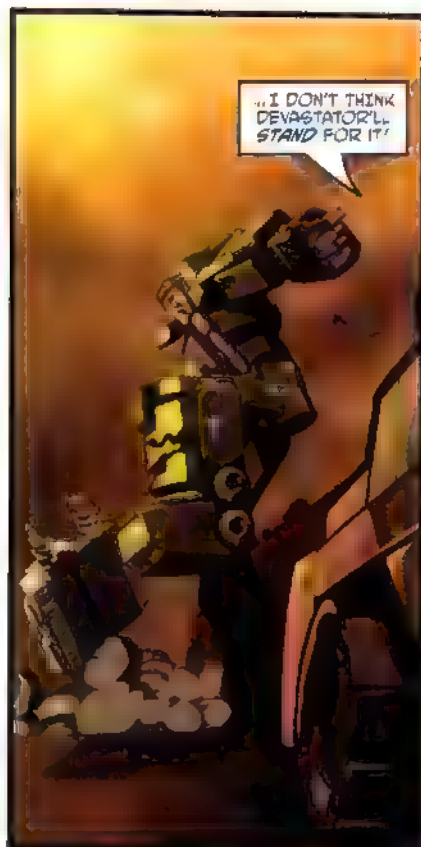
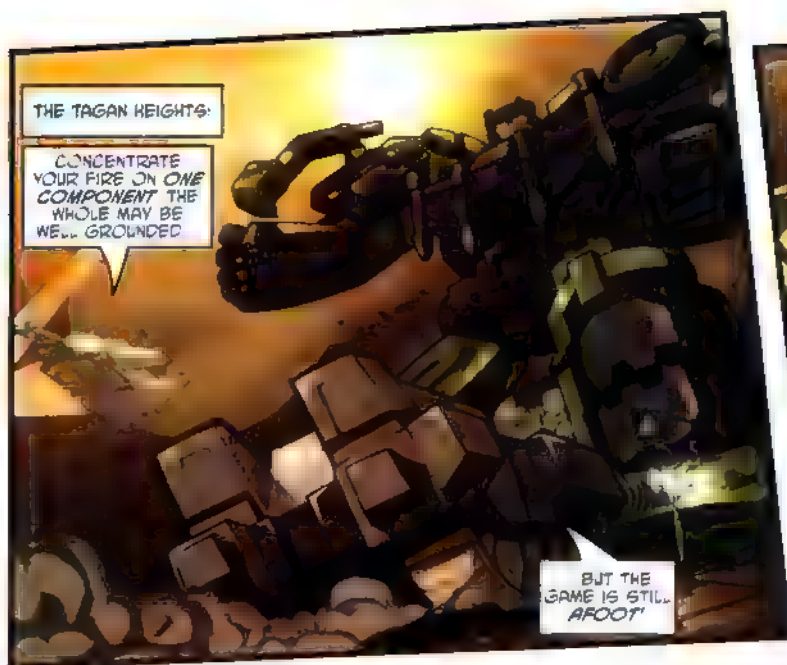



THE KEY TO *GRIMLOCK*
IS HIS OWN DELIGHTFULLY
SKewed SENSE OF RIGHT
AND WRONG, CRIME AND
PUNISHMENT PUSHED IN
THE RIGHT DIRECTION...

HE WILL
DELIVER
HIMSELF

...AND BRING
THE *THIRD* TARGET
WITH HIM!








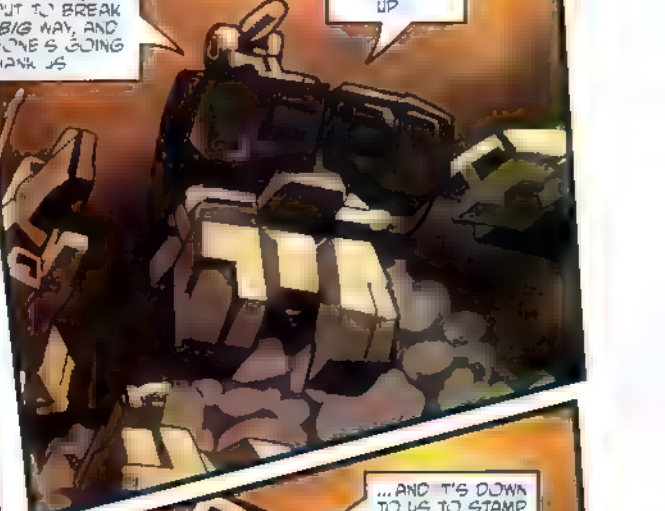
...PREPARE
FOR COFUNCTIONAL
INTERLOCK

YOU KNOW ME, HOTSHOT,
ALWAYS READY TO SCRAPER
MY KNUCKLES ON SOMEONE
ELSE'S CHASSIS




BUT ARE YOU
SURE THIS IS A
GOOD IDEA?

IN A WORD, *BLADES*, NO
WE'RE ABOUT TO BREAK
COVER A BIG WAY, AND
HARDLY ANYONE'S GOING
TO THANK US



BUT THE
HEAT'S BEEN
TURNED WAY
UP



...AND IT'S DOWN
TO US TO STAMP
IT OUT!




INTERLOCK
COMPLETE..

WE
ARE ONE!

"... JUST WHEN
YOU THINK THINGS
CAN'T GET ANY
WORSE!"





AUTOBASE,
CYBERTRON:



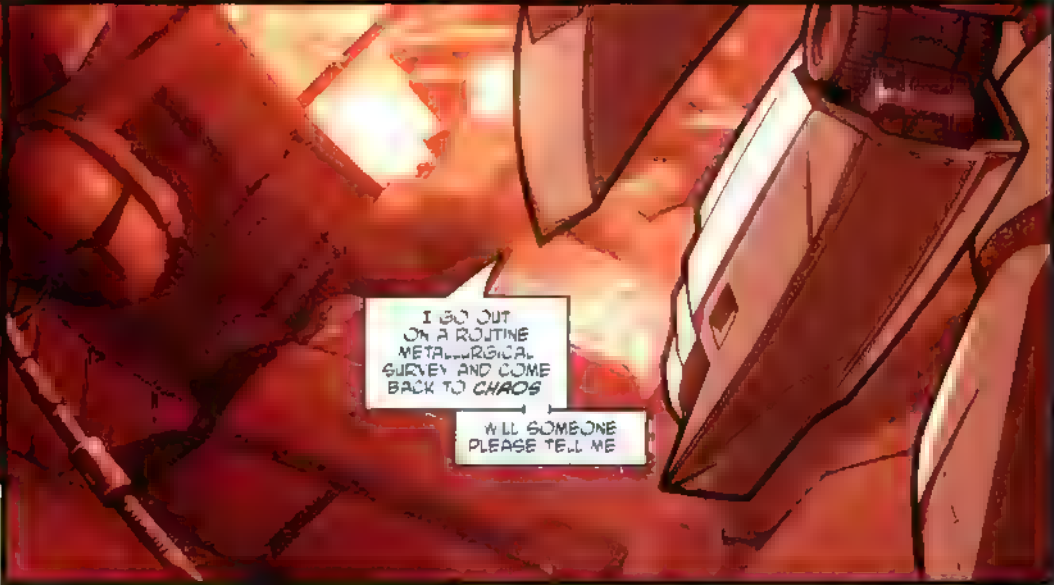
ESCALATION
IN THE TAGAN
HEIGHTS..

GENERAL
ALERT ON THE
KALIS FRONT...

WIDESPREAD
FIGHTING AROUND
UDAYA'S NORTHERN
PERIMETER

SABOTAGE
IN DEFENSE GRID
FOUR-ALPHA..

WHERE IS
EVERYONE?



I GO OUT
ON A ROUTINE
METALURGICAL
SURVEY AND COME
BACK TO CHAOS

WILL SOMEONE
PLEASE TELL ME

WHAT EXACTLY
IS GOING ON?



TO BE CONTINUED

FROM THE DESK OF... PAT LEE

YOUR DW CHECKLIST NOVEMBER

October 2003

It's been a blast working on Transformers War and Peace. There were many nights of not getting much sleep but it was worth the efforts just to get that last Ultra Magnus smoking barrel shot in the last issue thanks to the Mickster. It was also exciting to work with Brad Mick on the project as well and really excited to see what Don and Brad are going to do with the ongoing series. Although, it's not the last you'll see of me on Transformers. There is still a whole lot coming down the pipeline for me for the Transformers series.

For the time being, I will be back to drawing human figures again. I will be penciling 4 issues of Devil May Cry and am really pumped about working on the project. It also gives me an opportunity to try a different medium and to see an entire book fully painted.

So what other interesting projects are in the works? Lets just say that one of them entails a character with two pointy ears and a mission to cleanse the big "G". Thanks for supporting the wave and I hope to see you at the conventions!

Back to the artboard!

Pat Lee
President, Dreamwave Productions



SPOTLIGHT

DUEL MASTERS #1



Each cover for Duel Masters #1 comes polybagged with 1 of 5 different cards for the upcoming Duel Masters trading card game from Wizards of the Coast. Collect all five!

by Bryan Augustyn
& Jeremy Tjongson



SPOTLIGHT

DREW STRUZAN: DEUVRE

Drew Struzan's art has touched the lives of generations of filmgoers with unforgettable images for *The Star Wars Trilogy*, *Back to the Future*, *Indiana Jones*, *Phantom Menace*, *Harry Potter*, and hundreds more.

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MEGA MAN #3

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES VOL.1 TPB

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES #6

TRANSFORMERS ARMADA #17

TRANSFORMERS #8 MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

TRANSFORMERS #4 /G.I. JOE

TRANSFORMERS: WAR WITHIN THE DARK AGES #2

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DECLARATIONS OF WAR

Hey there Transfans!

Welcome to the "real" first letters page of War Within "The Dark Ages" as we obviously had no questions to answer last issue. I'm sure you were left with countless questions after the first issue though so let's get started:

Dear Dreamwave,

I just finished issues 6 of G1 Vol 2 and 1 of War Within Vol 2 and they left me with some questions.

1. Shockwave describes the difference between the Autobots and the Decepticons as being "genetic", yet in the War Within it's made to seem as though things were more political - like they all had a choice. The Decepticons are said to be a "rogue faction" that previously was unknown to the mainstream of Cybertron's societies, and in WW Vol 2 Furman has decided to use the Political splintering angle even more. Will this get cleared up? And since Grimlock was originally one of the Decepticons, does this mean that "genetically" he still is one?

2. And then there's Ultra Magnus. I completely dug how Brad used his actual action figure design as part of the story and related him to Optimus Prime. What I'm wondering is if Brad will give us a more detailed description on what exactly makes certain Transformers "brothers" - ie: Sunstreaker and Sideswipe - I'm talking construction-origins of these robots. Also, since Prime and Magnus are brothers where is Magnus in the War Within series? I would fully expect to see him looking like War Within Prime only all white and a tad shorter since Prime has the Matrix inside him.

3. What were Swoop, Slag, Sludge, and Snarl doing before War Within Vol. 2?

4. Will we ever see the Quintessons and if so, will they be minions of Unicron or cyborganic creations of Primus made to build the Transformers?

Anyway I love that what you're doing so far, with only a few minor quibbles, so keep it up, but PLEASE MAINTAIN CONTINUITY AT ALL COSTS. Oh, and Don Figueroa is BADASS.

Thanks for everything,
Jeremy C. Flowers

1. The Transformers race only recently learned of their 'genetic' differences. Shockwave learned of the TF factions' unique purposes through ancient texts that only he has been privy to. During the War Within era Shockwave had yet to uncover this truth...but is it the WHOLE truth? We shall see...(insert mysterious music here!)

2. Check out Transformers: More Than Meets The Eye #8 for more info on 'related' Transformers. Magnus was out of the picture during the War Within series due to injury (the cause of which is yet to be revealed...). His reparations led the addition of his armor, and to him becoming 'Ultra Magnus'.

3. Well, we couldn't fit EVERY one into War Within Vol. 1 (although Simon Furman & Don Figueroa certainly tried!). Just be thankful the rough & tough Dinobots are getting some deserved spotlight time in War Within "The Dark Ages".

4. Those mysterious Quintessons are definitely lurking around somewhere! In More Than Meets The Eye #8 you'll get your first look at Dreamwave's version of the 'Quints'. You may even learn some tidbits as to the Quint role in DW's TF Universe.

Dear Dreamwave,

Thanks for bringing back TF!! Really excited and looking forward to the new monthly ongoing. Is there a release for the TFG1 Vol.2 trade paperback? War Within was AWESOME.

Jason

Look for the Transformers G1 Vol.2 trade to hit comics stores in February 2004. The trade will be packed with cover art, easter eggs, and more so you can be sure you'll be getting some bang for your buck.

Dear Dreamwave,

I've recently tried to order the Transformers: War Within trade paperback from several different stores and they all tell me that it is out of stock and out of print. Is Dreamwave going to do a second printing of this book?

Travis Ellisor

The War Within Trade Paperback was very popular and we did sell out of our print run rather quickly. If the demand is strong enough we'll definitely go to a second print but if you can't wait that long check out the Dreamwave/Dynamic Forces online store found on our website. There's a super spiffy Hard Cover Edition available for pre-order right now!

Well, that's all the room we've got but keep those "Declarations of War" comin'. This is one of the few times that a declaration of war can be a good thing!

Matt!

Matt Moylan
Director of Post-Production
Dreamwave Productions

WRITE TO US!

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*LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR
LENGTH AND SPELLING.

DUEL MASTERS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Approved by
Junior
Duelist's
Center



DUELMASTERS #2
HOLD THE MAGIC!
FEEL THE POWER!
JOIN THE
DUEL!
THIS DECEMBER!

story by
BRIAN AUGUSTYN
art by
JEREMY TIONGSON
www.dreamwaveprod.com



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THE **TRANSFORMERS** GENERATION ONE

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!

ISSUE ZERO



PAT LEE AND DON FIGUEROA

JOIN FORCES

THE ONGOING SERIES STARTS HERE!

BRAD MICK PAT LEE DON FIGUEROA



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